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**Abstract**

2        An image enhancement apparatus and a corresponding method use face detection to  
3    provide for automatic enhancement of appearances of an image based on knowledge of human  
4    faces in the image. By modifying and transforming the image automatically using facial  
5    information, the image, including the human faces in the image, may have more pleasing  
6    lightness, contrast, and/or color levels. The image enhancement method may also automatically  
7    reduce or remove any red eye artifact without human intervention, leading to images with more  
8    pleasing appearances.

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